

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 15-18, 43-62, 67, 72-87, 89-109, 162, 172-174, 184, and 185 have been cancelled without prejudice, either in the present response or in prior amendments. In the present response, no claims have been added, and claims 63, 65, 68, and 69 have been amended. Consequently, claims 9-14, 19-42, 63-66, 68-71, 88, 110-161, 163-171, and 175-183 are currently pending and under consideration.


The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing independent claims 9, 11, 13, 19, 20, 41, 88, 171, 175, 182, 183 and their respective dependent claims. Additionally, the applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 63-66, 68-71, 79, 81-87, and 89-90 contained allowable subject matter in item 7. In that regard, dependent claims 63, 65, 68 and 69 have been rewritten into independent form. Consequently, now independent claims 63, 65, 68, 69 and their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. To conserve the expense of additional claims fees, dependent claims 79, 81, 89 and 90 have not been again rewritten to independent form because these claims were generally rewritten into independent form as claims 171, 175, 182, and 183, respectively, in prior amendments. As can be seen from the above amendments, the application is in condition for allowance.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 

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